

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, NL
SUBJ: LABOR AND POLITICS DUTCH STYLE

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH DUTCH TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS AVOID
COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO POLITICAL PARTIES, THEY STILL
EXERCISE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON THE VOTING BEHAVIOR
OF THEIR MEMEBERS, AND WILL DO SO IN THIS YEARS ELECTION.
THE LABOR PARTY (PVDA) IS EXPECTED TO BE THE BIGGEST
BENEFICIARY OF THE UNIONS POLITICAL CLOUT. END SUMMARY

1. DUTCH TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS VIEW THEIR ROLE AS
THAT OF SERVING THE INTERSTS OF THE WORKER NOT OF
PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT OR OPPOSITION. FEDERATION
LEADERS HAVE THUS REFRAINED FROM OPENLY SUUPRITING
POLITICAL PARTIES. IN THE PAST THE THREE
MAJOR FEDERATIONS WERE IDENTIFIED WITH THREE OF THE
"PILLARS" OF DUTHC SOCIETY)SOCIALIST, CATHOLIC,
PROTESTANT) AND HAD CLOSE TIES WITH THE PARTIES REPRE-
SETING THESE GROUPS. THE SOCIALIST NVV IN PARTICULAR
HAD STRONG TIES WITH THE LABOR (PVDA) PARTY. TWO FORMER
NVV PRESIDENTS WERE AT THE SAME TIME PVDA PARLIAMENTATIRANS
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AND SOME CONSTITUENT UNIONS OPENLY URGED MEMBERS TO VOTE
FOR LABOR.

2. SINCE THE 1975 MERGE OF THE NVV AND THE CATHOLIC
TRADE UNION FEFERATION NKV INTO THE NETHERLANDS TRADE
UNION FEDERATION FNV, POLCITICAL TIES WITHTHE LABOR
PARTY HAVE BEEN LESS CLEAR CUT. IN THIS YEARS ELECTION

THE 1.2 MILLION MEMEBER FNV HAS A CLEAR INTERST
IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE POLICIES OF THE DEN UYL
GOVERNMENT, AND HAS SUBTLY BUT UNAMBIGUOUSLY GIVEN ITS
MEMBER S THE WORD. IN A REPORT ENTITLED "FOUR YEARS
AHEAD", FNV PRESIDENT WIM KOK, AFTER INSISTING THAT
UNIONS HAVE NO BUSINESS TELLING MEMBERS HOW TO VOTE,
EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A CONTINUED AND STRENGTHENED
"PROGRESSIVE POLICY, THUS IMPLICITLYLY SUPPORING A VOTE
FOR THE PVDA. BY FOCUSING SUPPORT ON POLCIIES FOR
DEMOCRATIZATION OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY WHICH WERE A
CORNERSTONE OF THE DEN UYL CABINET, KOK AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE FNV EXECUTIVE BOARD, INCLUDING MOST
OF THOSE FROM CATHOLIC FEFERATIONS, PROBABLY HOPE TO
GENERATE A LARGE LABOR VOTE FOR THE PVDA. MOST OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE MUCH SMALLER PROTESTANT CNV WILL
PROBABLY VOTE FOR THE CENTRIST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
CDA.

3. IN 1972 ACCORDING TO KOK 70 PERCENT OF THE NVV
VOTE WENT FOR THE LABO PARTY WITH 15-20 PERCENT
FOR THE OTHER PGORESSIVE PARTIES, NOT A SURPRISING
PRCENTAGE AMONG THE PVDAS NATURAL CONSITUTENCY.
IF KOK AND HIS COLLEAGUES CAN MUSTER A SIMILAR
PRCENTAGE ON MAY 25 BY LURING CATHOLIC MEMBERS VOTES
FROM THE CDA,THEY WILL HAVE SHOWN THEIR ABIBLITY TO
TALK SOFTLY AND STILL DELIVER A BIG POLITICAL PUNCH.
MCCLOSKEY

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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